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WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 18, 2019

Pulse of Wabash

Wabash Plain Dealer's new website now available

Check out our new website at www.wabashplaindealer.com and let us know what you think. Stories older than a few weeks are not yet available but will be soon. If you had an account on our previous site, you will need to create a new account. If you registered with the same email address we will be able to locate your previous subscription as well. Once registered, you can also verify your subscription. Please contact web-support@wabashplaindealer.com with any questions. Thank you!

Wabash Plain Dealer's new office now open

The Wabash Plain Dealer's new office is now open on the second floor at 99 W. Canal St. Downtown businesses to extend hours on select dates

Participating shops will be open until 7 p.m. on the following dates: Dec. 18, 19, 20 and 21.

WCPL plans Holiday Open House

The Wabash Carnegie Public Library (WCPL) has planned their Holiday Open House from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 18. The all-ages event will feature snacks, crafts, games, photo opportunities, carolers and more. Register on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/events/281696909393826/>.

Census job opportunities to be discussed

The U.S. Census Bureau has planned a presentation at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 18 at the Living Well Downtown, 35 E. Market St. to present upcoming census job opportunities.

Register for this event by calling 260-563-4475.

Celebrate 'The Wonders of Winter' on Dec. 18

Preschool-age children and their adults are invited to Salamonie

See CALENDAR / Page A3

Inside

Classified, B5 Sports, B1 Comics, B4 Education, A5 Crossword, B4 Viewpoint, A4 Obituaries, A3 Weather, A2



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'Apaches in Action'

WHS staff, students place free winter clothing on downtown light poles and trees

BY ROB BURGESS
rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com

With the snow and cold of winter now upon us, many need warm weather items.

To help with some of this need, Wabash High School (WHS) staff and students will be placing these items on light poles and in trees around the downtown area. The bags contain hats, gloves, scarves and coats, according to Jeffery R. Galley, WHS assistant principal.

"These items are for any individual in need, regardless of income and without any qualifiers," he stated. "If a person knows someone, or requires items to help them stay warm, they are welcome to take a bag with no questions asked."

Galley stated the "Apaches In Action" program has the goal of not only providing for others but to continue teaching and modeling for students, and the community.

"WHS would like to thank all those involved and specifically Wabash Marketplace and Mayor Scott Long for allowing us to use the downtown area to provide these items for others," stated Galley.

In response to a Plain Dealer request Thursday, Galley stated the idea began to take shape four years ago.

"Our front desk secretary, Dawn Saunders, showed me a Facebook posting of a village on the east coast doing something similar around a downtown church," he stated. "We talked about how nice it was and could we do it here in Wabash."

Galley stated they knew many of their neighbors struggled during the colder months.

"This was our way of helping be part of the solution," he stated.

Galley stated it was an idea to help students which expanded to the rest of the community.

"That first year we went through a large number of warm weather items that we already had in stock for our students in need," he stated. "As we started to run out we asked for donations and the community responded graciously."

Galley stated they placed items downtown last week and they were all gone with

See APACHES / Page A6



BAGS: The bags contain hats, gloves, scarves and coats



ITEMS: Wabash High School (WHS) staff and students will be placing these items on light poles and in trees around the downtown area.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Wabash Kiwanis Club's Pancake Day returns in March

Annual event serves as largest fundraiser of the year for local service organization

STAFF REPORT

The Wabash Kiwanis Club will once again host its annual Pancake Day, which is the local service

organization's largest annual fundraiser. The event will take place from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 14, according to a press release.

After a year at the Wabash Presbyterian Church, Pancake Day will return to the newly renovated Bruce Ingraham building at the Wabash County Fairgrounds, located just off of Gillen Avenue. Pancakes, with or without blueberries, will be available,

along with sausages and drinks.

Tickets will be \$8 at the door and \$7 in advance for those ages 13 years and older, and \$5 at the door and \$4 in advance for children ages 6 to 12 years.

Admission for the event will be free for children 5 years and younger.

Plans are also in motion for the event's Pancake Eating Contest to return. The Club's president-elect, Mike Keaffaber, is the fun-

draiser's chairperson for 2020. Those who have questions or ideas regarding the event can contact Keaffaber at keaffaber@msdw.k12.in.us.

The event allows the Club to continue its many service projects in the area, including support of Key Clubs at Wabash and Northfield high schools, support of K-Kids clubs at O.J. Neighbors and

See PANCAKE DAY / Page A5

Midwest Poultry Services receives \$155K solar grant

USDA award funds North Manchester facility's solar array

BY ROB BURGESS
rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com

Last week, Michael Dora, United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Indiana State Director, announced they are providing \$1,213,736 in grants "to help farmers, ag producers and rural-based businesses lower energy cost."

Among the winners were Midwest Poultry Services, who is receiving a \$155,304 grant to install a Solar Array System at their North Manchester facility.

Solar Array System

In a Monday phone interview, Dan Krouse, vice president of operations, said the grant would cover a portion of the cost of the 1.1 mega-watt, 3,456-panel system.

The grant is an award from USDA for renewable energy projects and it's part of a solar installation that we installed at our high-grade farm in North Manchester.

"I don't want to say the whole cost because that's competitive information," said Krouse.

Krouse said the system has an approximately nine-year payback and covers

See SOLAR / Page A2

ISP offers tips for driving in snowy weather

Hundreds of accidents reported after storm earlier this week

STAFF REPORT

After the snowfall early this week, troopers from the Indiana State Police (ISP) Pendleton District investigated five property damage crashes, two personal injury crashes and 11 slide-offs from 7 p.m. Sunday to 7 a.m. Monday, according to a press release.

According to the ISP Dispatch Center in Indianapolis, troopers statewide investigated 336 property damage crashes, 79 personal injury crashes and 213 slide-offs during the same period.

"The most common cause of crashes during snow or icy weather is speed too fast for the existing road conditions," stated the release. "Remember, slick roads don't cause crashes, it's your driving

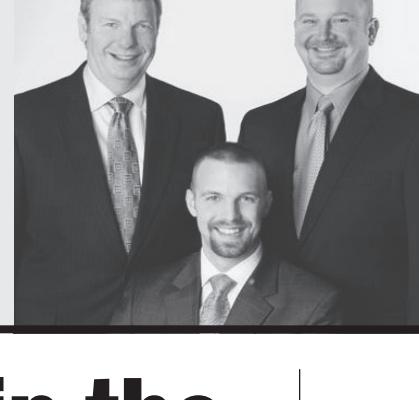
See DRIVING TIPS / Page A5

Obituaries

A3 / WABASH PLAIN DEALER / WWW.WABASHPLAINDEALER.COM / WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2019

WPD

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Ford to add 3,000 jobs in the Detroit area, invest \$1.45B

BY TOM KRISHER

AP Auto Writer

DETROIT — Ford Motor Co. is adding 3,000 jobs at two factories in the Detroit area and investing \$1.45 billion to build new pickup trucks, SUVs, and electric and autonomous vehicles.

The company said Tuesday that about \$750 million will go the Michigan Assembly Plant in the Detroit suburb of Wayne, where 2,700 jobs will be added during the next three years. Another \$700 million will be invested in the truck plant in Dearborn, where 300 new jobs will be added.

Hiring will begin next year.

The large investment comes as the U.S. new vehicle sales cycle has peaked and appears to be leveling off around 17 million vehicles per year.

But Ford needs to make the investment in new products in an effort to increase its market share and prepare for a shift to new propulsion and autonomous vehicle technologies.

The Wayne plant investment will be used to build the new Ford Bronco SUV, as well as an all-new Ranger small pickup truck. Investment at the plant also result in a new center to modify and support autonomous and other vehicles.

Ford says the Dearborn plant will get the next generation of the F-150, as well as hybrid and electric versions of the truck. The investment includes battery assembly for the electric trucks.

The F-150 is the top-selling vehicle in the U.S. and is

Ford's franchise, generating most of the company's profits.

Workers at the Wayne plant will modify and finish Ford's first autonomous vehicles starting in 2021, including the installation of self-driving technology and interiors built for autonomous travel. Ford said in a statement. The truck plant in Dearborn will build the new trucks as well as assemble battery cells into full packs for the hybrid and electric F-150s.

Michigan's economic-development arm, the Michigan Strategic Fund, on Tuesday approved state tax incentives for Ford that are worth approximately \$35 million over 15 years. Michigan was chosen for the expansions over competing sites in Kentucky,

Missouri, Ohio, Canada, Mexico and countries outside North America, according to the Michigan Economic Development Corp.

"This is great news for Michigan autoworkers, their families and our economy as a whole," Gov. Gretchen Whitmer said in a statement. "I'm glad Ford recognizes that Michigan is home to some of the most innovative, hardworking people in the world, and has opened up opportunities for 3,000 new good-paying jobs in our state."

In seeking approval of the tax breaks, state officials said the incentives would offset some of the increased costs associated with doing business in Michigan instead of competing locations.

Bill to boost funding for Great Lakes cleanup

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. (AP) — A wide-ranging cleanup of the Great Lakes would receive a funding boost under a spending bill moving toward enactment in Congress.

The measure, approved Tuesday, is the top-selling vehicle in the U.S. and is

includes \$320 million for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. The bill was sent to the Senate for a vote expected later this week.

The initiative received \$475 million in 2010 and about \$300 million annually since.

It pays for projects dealing with long-term environmental problems such as toxic pollution in harbors and river mouths, loss of wetlands and other habitat, invasive species and runoff that causes harmful algae blooms.

The bill also would appropriate \$75 million toward construction of a new shipping lock at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, a crucial link between Lakes Huron and Superior for freighters hauling iron ore and other bulk commodities.

CALENDAR

Continued from A1

Preschool's "The Wonders of Winter" from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 18 at Salamonie Interpretive Center in Lost Bridge West State Recreation Area, 3691 New Holland Road, Andrews. The program fee is \$2 per child. Advance registration is appreciated. Register by calling Upper Wabash Interpretive Services at 260-468-2127. For more information on other UWIS programs, visit dnr.IN.gov/uwis or facebook.com/upperwabash.

VFW to host fish fry

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Wabash Post No. 286, will be having a fish fry from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday Dec. 20 at 3678 West Old Indiana 24. The menu will include hand-battered haddock, baked beans, coleslaw and hush puppies. The cost is \$8 person for all you can eat, dine in. Carry-out available. For more information, call 260-563-2463.

Breakfast with Santa planned

On Saturday, Dec. 21, Santa will be coming to Breakfast with Santa and will have a special treat for children at the Wabash County Historical Museum, 36 E. Market St.

Living Crèche scheduled for Dec. 22

A Living Crèche has been planned from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 22 at Wabash Christian Church, 110 W. Hill St. There will be three live shows outside each hour with animals, music and costumes. This can be viewed from a vehicle or the sidewalk. The event is free to attend.

Charley Creek Gardens to host 10th Annual Yule Time Stroll

Charley Creek Gardens

will host its 10th Annual Yule Time Stroll, open to the public from 6 to 9 p.m. through Monday, Dec. 23 at 551 N. Miami St. This event is free and open to the public. Parking is available at 518 N. Wabash St.

Laketon American Legion Post offering breakfast and lunch

The Laketon American Legion Post will be offering breakfast and lunch from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 23 to Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2020. The Blue Bird Cafe will be closed. There will be no breakfast Wednesday, Dec. 25.

Community Christmas dinner planned

A community Christmas dinner has been planned from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 25 at the Laketon American Legion Post, 10140 N. Troyer Road.

Low Impact Fitness classes scheduled

Fitness that is both fun and free led by Mary Jo McClelland at 9:45 a.m. every Monday and Thursday, and 3 p.m. Wednesdays at Living Well Winchester Center, 239 Bond St. There is no fee or registration required.

Cancer care advocate available every Tuesday

A cancer care advocate is available from 1 to 4 p.m. every Tuesday at the Winchester Senior Center, 239 Bond St. No appointment is needed. This service is supported by the Hope Foundation and provided by Cancer Services out of Fort Wayne.

Yoga classes scheduled on Tuesdays

Yoga for those who are intermediate to experienced levels have been scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays at

the Living Well Winchester Center, 239 Bond St. The cost is \$10, and discount passes are available.

Red Cross blood donation opportunity set for Dec. 27

The Red Cross has scheduled a blood donation opportunity from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 27, at Parkview Wabash Hospital, 10 John Kissinger Drive.

First Day Hike planned at Salamonie Lake

Join Upper Wabash Interpretive Services' staff for a First Day Hike at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 1 at Salamonie Lake at 3691 New Holland Road, Andrews. Meet at the interpretive center for a one-hour stroll through the woods along the moderate Tree Trail. Dress for the weather. Families and friendly dogs on leashes welcome. Advance registration is requested by calling 260-468-2127.

Honeywell Foundation's Annual Winter Bash draws near

The Annual Winter Break Bash, hosted by the Honeywell Foundation, will take place Thursday, Jan. 2 and Friday, Jan. 3 at various Honeywell Foundation venues including the Honeywell Center and Charley Creek Gardens. For more information about Winter Bash, visit the Honeywell Center website at www.honeywellcenter.org or call the Box Office at 260-563-1102.

January Salamonie Senior Luncheon set

The monthly Salamonie Senior Luncheon will be held at noon Monday, Jan. 6, 2020 at the Salamonie Lake Interpretive Center, 3691 New Holland Road, Andrews. Anyone age 50 or older is welcome to attend. The program begins

with a carry-in meal at noon. Potato soup will be provided. Guests should bring a side dish to share, a beverage and their table service. A \$1 donation will be accepted. Reservations may be made by calling 260-468-2127.

Artists sought for Honeywell Foundation's art competition

The Honeywell Foundation's Clark Gallery will be hosting its annual 92 County Art Show from Thursday, Jan. 9, 2020 through Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2020. Entries will be accepted from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, Jan. 6. For complete guidelines visit www.honeywellcenter.org/92-county-art-show. A public reception for this event will take place at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2020. For more information, contact Michele Hughes at mhughes@honeywellfoundation.org or call the Honeywell Center Box Office at 260-563-1102.

Komets game to celebrate Wabash County March 13

Wabash County will be the MVP during the third annual Wabash County Night at the Fort Wayne Komets game at 8:05 p.m. Friday, March 13, 2020 at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, 4000 Parnell Ave., Fort Wayne. While supplies last, tickets can be bought for \$15 per ticket at <https://groupmatics.events/event/Wabashcommunity3> or by emailing Mitch Meinholz at mitch@komets.com or by calling 260-482-6812.

Editor's note: If you have an upcoming event to submit, please send it by email to news@wabashplaindealer.com no later than five days before the event itself. Please use complete sentences, Associated Press style and Microsoft Word or PDF file formats.

Elizabeth J. Figert

July 5, 1925 - Dec. 13, 2019



Figert of Camino, California, Sue (Larry) Figert Kennedy of Indianapolis, Indiana, and John David (Sherry) Figert of Friendswood, Texas, 5 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, daughter, Linda Figert who died in 1965, 5 brothers, and 4 sisters.

There will be no services. Burial will be in Roann Community Cemetery. Arrangements by Grandstaff-Hentgen Bender Chapel, North Manchester.

The memorial guest book for Elizabeth may be signed at www.grandstaff-hentgen.com.

Beverly Joan Coldren

Beverly Joan Coldren, 92, passed away peacefully on Dec. 16, 2019.

She is survived by daughter, Becky (Coldren) Burton; sons, David (Peggy) Julian and Randy Julian; two sisters, Brenda (Larry) Landis and Barbara Stewart; 14 grandchildren, 30 great-grandchildren, and numerous great-great-grandchildren. She was

preceded in death by her son, John Julian; brothers, Bill and Keith Coldren; sisters, Edna Tracy, Carol Paul, and Betty Smith, and one grandson.

Calling Monday, Dec. 23, 2019 from 10 - 11 a.m. at McKee Mortuary, 1401 State Road 114 West, North Manchester. Funeral services will begin at the conclusion of calling.

Barbara Hopkins

Funeral services for Barbara Hopkins, 91, of North Manchester will be 11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 20, 2019, at

Grandstaff-Hentgen Bender Chapel, North Manchester, with visitation 10 - 11. Burial in Pleasant Hill Cemetery.

Billy Eugene Brandenburg

Funeral Services for Billy Eugene Brandenburg, 85, of North Manchester, were 10:30 a.m., Monday, Dec. 16, 2019 at Grandstaff-Hentgen Bender Chapel, North Manchester. David Phillips officiated. Memories were shared by family

and friends. Rachel Brandenburg was the musician. Pallbearers were Cris Brandenburg, Patrick Brandenburg, Jered Price, Eli Brandenburg, Bret Bechtold and Dennis Groninger. Burial was in Oaklawn Cemetery, North Manchester.

IN BRIEF

Detroit man pleads guilty in NW Indiana jewelry store heist

HAMMOND (AP) — A Detroit man has pleaded guilty in a smash-and-grab robbery during which he and two others allegedly stole more than \$1 million in jewelry from a northwestern Indiana jewelry store.

Darren S. Bell, 29, pleaded guilty last week in federal court in Hammond to a federal charge of armed robbery that interfered with interstate commerce.

The court hasn't set Bell's sentencing date.

Police and prosecutors allege that in January 2019, Bell, Altonio D. Benson, 40, of Detroit and a third unidentified individual entered a jewelry store in Hobart, located its most expensive jeweled pendants and began smashing display cases with hammers and taking jewelry.

All three fled the store with \$1,009,145 worth of miscellaneous jewelry in bags, The (Northwest Indiana) Times reported.

Hobart police captured Bell and Benson nearby and later recovered more than \$500,000 worth of stolen jewelry as well as two sledgehammers left inside the store.

The third suspect escaped after he drove a minivan from the jewelry store.

Benson is awaiting a trial that's now scheduled for March.

Indiana shooting leaves 4-year-old dead, pregnant mom hurt

GARY (AP) — A shooting in northwestern Indiana has killed a 4-year-old Gary boy and left his pregnant mother hospitalized with gunshot wounds, police said.

Gary police responding to reports of a shooting at a residence about 1 a.m. Monday found the wounded boy, who was pronounced dead at a hospital. Gary Cmdr. Jack Hamady said in a news release that "at this time, it appears someone from outside the residence fired several shots into the residence."

The child's 27-year-old mother was hospitalized with non-life-threatening injuries after being shot in the arm and suffering a graze wound to her face. Hamady said three other children were in the house at the time of the shooting, which is under investigation.

The Lake County Coroner's office identified the boy who died as Toryon Dukes and said he was shot in the upper body while in bed. His death has been ruled a homicide.

Police urged the public to share information about what might have led to the shooting in Gary, about 30 miles southeast of Chicago.

Toryon's family "should be celebrating Christmas. It's pretty heartbreaking to see, especially if you have children of your own," said Edward Gonzales of the Metro Crimes task force.

What do you think?

We want to hear your opinions, too. Here's how to get us your letters to the editor:

Fax Mail

260-563-0816 Letters to the Editor, 123 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992

Email

news@wabashplaindealer.com



speak up

How to contact your legislators:

U.S. Sen. Todd Young, R-Ind.
B33 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510 1-202-224-5623 <http://coats.senate.gov/contact>

U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, R-Ind.
B85 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510 202-224-4814 <http://braun.senate.gov/>

U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski R-District 2
419 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515 202-225-3915

State Sen. Andy Zay, R-District 17
Indiana Senate 200 W. Washington St. Indianapolis, IN 46204 1-800-382-9467 Senator.Zay@iga.in.gov

State Rep. David Wolkins, R-District 18
Indiana House 200 W. Washington St. Indianapolis, IN 46204 1-800-382-9841 h18@in.gov

letters guidelines

The Wabash Plain Dealer encourages your letters to the editor forum, which is designed to be a forum for exchange of ideas between readers about issues of community importance.

Please sign your letter. Your name will be used with the letter that is published in the Plain Dealer. Your letter will be returned if it is your desire to remain anonymous.

Since we may want to write or call you to verify the letter, we ask that you include your address and telephone number. All our letters to the editor are published in the interest of fair play, so we trust our letter writers will refrain from personal attacks on other persons or groups.

A letter should be less than two pages long, preferably of double-spaced typing.

In order to give everyone an opportunity to participate in this exchange of ideas, please try to limit your letters to one per month per household.

To submit a letter, please write the Wabash Plain Dealer at 123 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

Letters also may be hand-delivered to the newspaper office, 123 W. Canal St. The office is open 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you should deliver a letter during non-business hours, a drop slot is located to the left of the front door. Letters may be faxed to 260-563-0816, or email them to news@wabashplaindealer.com with "Letters to the Editor" in the subject line.

inspiration corner

Daily scripture

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:24-25 NIV

Impeach Donald Trump

President Donald Trump abused the power of his office by strong-arming Ukraine, a vulnerable ally, holding up hundreds of millions of dollars in military aid until it agreed to help him influence the 2020 election by digging up dirt on a political rival.

When caught in the act, he rejected the very idea that a president could be required by Congress to explain and justify his actions, showing "unprecedented, categorical and indiscriminate defiance" in the face of multiple subpoenas. He made it impossible for Congress to carry out fully its constitutionally mandated oversight role, and, in doing so, he violated the separation of powers, a safeguard of the American republic.

The case now moves to the full House of Representatives, which on Wednesday will decide, for just the third time in the nation's history, whether to impeach a president.

To resist the pull of partisanship, Republicans and Democrats alike ought to ask themselves the same

question: Would they put up with a Democratic president using the power of the White House this way? Then they should consider the facts, the architecture and aspirations of the Constitution and the call of history. In that light, there can be only one responsible judgment: to cast a vote to impeach, to send a message not only to this president but to future ones.

By stonewalling as no previous president has, Donald Trump has left Congress with no choice but to press ahead to a Senate trial. The president insists he is innocent of any wrongdoing, yet he refuses to release any administration documents or allow any administration officials to testify — though, if his assertions are in fact true, those officials would presumably exonerate him. He refused to present any defense before the House whatsoever, asserting a form of monarchial immunity that Congress cannot let stand.

It's regrettable that the House moved as fast as it did, without work-

ing further through the courts and through other means to hear from numerous crucial witnesses. But Democratic leaders have a point when they say they can't afford to wait, given the looming electoral deadline and Trump's pattern of soliciting foreign assistance for his campaigns. Even after his effort to extract help from Ukraine was revealed, the president publicly called on China to investigate his rival. Asked as recently as October what he hoped the Ukrainians would do in response to his infamous July 25 call with their president, Trump declared: "Well, I would think that, if they were honest about it, they'd start a major investigation into the Bidens. It's a very simple answer."

Barring the persuasive defense that Trump has so far declined even to attempt, that simple answer sounds like a textbook example of an impeachable offense, as the nation's framers envisioned it.

A version of this editorial was first published in The New York Times.

A top-10 book hoax that defines 'The Rest of the Story'

In the spirit of Paul Harvey's "The Rest of the Story" radio segments.

Let's call this the bestseller that never was, adapted from author J. Mark Powell's version of the incident.

"Shep" (that's how he referred to

himself) was born and raised in Indiana but after serving in World War II had a radio career in Ohio before becoming the overnight voice of WOR in New York City.

Broadcasting in the 1950s was in a period of transition. Television had killed off the golden age of radio. The old medium had lost its way, and the new medium was still finding its way. The time was ripe for something new to be done with radio, and Shep a gifted story teller and master of sarcastic wit was the perfect broadcaster to do it.

He just talked to his audience, whom he called his Night People, and invited them to call in and talk to him. It was more or less the beginning of what we now call talk radio.

New York City in the 1950s, Shep observed, was big on Top 10 lists — 10 best restaurants, well-dressed women, hot new trends and on and on. Chief among them was the New York Time's bestseller list. At that time, it wasn't just sales that put a book on the list — customer requests for a book and questions about it were among the criteria.

Shep the cynic believed people were so influenced by such lists that they didn't even bother to think for themselves, and he ranted on the air one night that if enough people requested a book that didn't even exist, it would make the bestseller list.

His Night People responded with glee and in the spring of 1956 helped Shep create what some would later call the hoax of the century. Based on audience suggestions, he came up with a name for a nonexistent novel — "I, Libertine" — and invented an author, Frederick R. Ewing, a retired British military officer and scholar who lived with his wife Marjorie on their English country estate.

The Night People went to work, bombarding bookstores with requests for the novel and talking it up in various social circles, and reporting the hilarious effects on air. One listener reported a particularly snooty clerk responded to the query with, "Frederick R. Ewing? It's about time people began noticing his work." Another related that members of her bridge club said they had read it, and then proceeded to argue over which chapters they liked and those they didn't. A third, a college student, wrote a lengthy term paper on "F.R. Ewing: Eclectic Historian" and got a B+.

Requests for "I, Libertine" started coming in from London, Paris, Rome and West Germany. And, in the crowning success of the hoax, a church congregation in Massachusetts condemned it.

And in the summer of 1956, the book that did not exist made the New York Times bestseller list — and then began to move up on it. A literary gossip columnist wrote in a leading newspaper, "Had a delightful lunch the other day with Frederick R. Ewing and his charming wife, Marjorie."

The book might have gone all the way to No. 1. But Shep and his good friend Ted, having a good laugh over the hoax at lunch one day, decided it was time to fess up and, just for laughs, write the book for real. The Wall Street Journal broke the story (though it hadn't exactly been a national secret) just weeks before the book came out, written by Ted, with a disreputable looking Shep posing on the back cover as author Ewing.

And, yes, that book, the real one, also made the bestseller list. (All profits went to charity.) Today, you can still buy "I, Libertine" on Amazon.com. You can also read many other works by Ted — noted science fiction author Theodore Sturgeon.

And you will probably watch the film version of the master hoaxter's most famous work on television for the 10th or 20th time — Hoosier humorist Jean Shepherd's "A Christmas Story." And imagine him on the radio — that's his voice doing the narration.

So now you know yada, yada, yada.*

*Among those influenced by Shepherd is Jerry Seinfeld, who has said, "He really formed my entire comedic sensibility—I learned how to do comedy from Jean Shepherd."

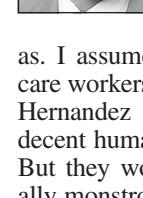
Leo Morris, columnist for The Indiana Policy Review, is winner of the Hoosier Press Association's award for Best Editorial Writer. Morris, as opinion editor of the Fort Wayne News-Sentinel, was named a finalist in editorial writing by the Pulitzer Prize committee. Contact him at leoeditz@yahoo.com.



Trump administration's cruel immigration policies led to boy's death

Sixteen-year-old Carlos Gregorio Hernandez Vasquez died horribly and needlessly. The Trump administration's policy of deliberate, punishing cruelty toward Latin American migrants killed him.

Eugene Robinson



That is the only conclusion to be drawn from a shocking report by the nonprofit newsroom ProPublica about Hernandez's death in May at a U.S. Border Patrol station in Texas.

I assume the agents and health care workers who should have given Hernandez lifesaving attention are decent human beings, not monsters. But they work within an intentionally monstrous system that assigned no value to a young Guatemalan boy's life.

President Trump's racist and xenophobic immigration policies are not grounds for impeachment; rather, they are an urgent reason to defeat him in the coming election. But at least six migrant children, including Hernandez, have died in federal custody on Trump's watch. Somebody should be held accountable. Somebody should go to jail.

Hernandez died of influenza and neglect.

He had crossed the Rio Grande without documents with a group of migrants who were almost immediately apprehended by the Border Patrol. In keeping with administration policy, he was separated from his adult sister and processed at a notoriously overcrowded holding facility in McAllen, Texas, where a nurse practitioner found he had a temperature of 103. She diagnosed him with the flu and said he should be taken to a hospital if his condition worsened.

Hernandez's death implies more than the apparent negligence of a few overworked Border Patrol

agents. It indicta a whole system designed by the Trump administration to deter would-be migrants and asylum-seekers by punishing those who do make the journey.

In Hernandez's case, the fatal punishment was meted out illegally. He had been in custody for six days when he died, but the Border Patrol is only supposed to hold children for 72 hours, at most, before transferring them to the Department of Health and Human Services.

The Trump administration instituted a shockingly inhumane policy of separating migrant parents from their children, who in many cases were sent hundreds of miles away. Thousands of children were warehoused in cages, like animals. Toddlers and infants were absurdly expected to represent themselves at immigration hearings whose nature they could not begin to understand.

It is true that officials have had to deal with a flood of migrants that overwhelmed border facilities and personnel. But the Trump administration responded to the surge not with compassion but with purposeful callousness. It is horrific that six migrant children are known to have died in Customs and Border Protection custody since September 2018.

It is even worse when you realize there were no such deaths, not a single one, during the eight years of the Obama administration.

According to ProPublica's report, Carlos Gregorio Hernandez Vasquez was a bright and engaging boy who captained his school's soccer team in the village of San Jose del Rodeo. The Border Patrol assigned him the alien identification number A203665141. His body was shipped home for burial.

Eugene Robinson's email address is eugenerobinson@washpost.com.

letters to the editor

'Commander of White House chaos' concerns

As a former Navy enlisted and officer, I am highly concerned with the "commander-in-charge of White House chaos" interference in Navy matters.

The "commander-in-charge of White House chaos" overruled the Navy's decision to demote Chief Petty Officer and Navy Seal Edward

Gallagher. Gallagher was convicted of posing with a dead detainee.

Trump's rationale was that he was standing up for our military. Trump also overruled the peer review ordered by Rear Admiral Collin Green, head of the Navy SEALs, and by doing this he is undermining the Navy's chain of command and adversely impacting discipline within the Navy. The peer review would have been conducted by senior Navy

enlisted personnel.

The "commander-in-charge of White House chaos," who knows nothing about our military, might have Navy personnel in command second-guessing their authority,

which could be detrimental to naval operations in the world and could adversely impact our national security.

By Donald Moskowitz Londonderry, New Hampshire

inspiration corner

Daily scripture

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:24-25 NIV

Education

A5 / WABASH PLAIN DEALER / WWW.WABASHPLAINDEALER.COM / WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2019

WPD

American Legion Auxiliary offers several scholarships

STAFF REPORT

The American Legion Auxiliary offers many scholarships for students looking for an opportunity to gain scholarship funds, according to a press release.

Amounts range from \$500 to \$5,000.

These scholarships include Specific for a child or grandchild of any war-era veteran; non-veteran; a Junior Auxiliary member; and a non-traditional student.

These scholarships re-

quire a copy of the applicant's Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form or Student Aid Report (SAR).

Many applications are due March 1, 2020. Applications are available at the Manchester High School office of Lacey Wise, school counselor.

Students from other Wabash County schools may contact Roxy Stoner, of Wabash Auxiliary Unit No. 15, by phone at 260-615-4015.

■ Increase the following distance between you and the vehicle in front of you.

■ Decrease your speed according to the road conditions.

■ Make sure everyone in your vehicle is properly restrained.

■ Don't be distracted. Pull over and stop to use electronic devices.

■ Move over and slow down for emergency vehicles, snowplows and highway service vehicles.

"It's going to snow, and roadways will be slick, so leave early and give yourself extra time to reach your destination. If you don't have to go out, then don't go. Give highway crews time to work and get the roads cleared. Slow down and increase your following distance, as it's better to reach your destination late than to not reach your destination at all," stated the release.

volleyball team's Kills for a Cure fundraiser and more.

Sponsorship opportunities for businesses for Pancake Day are available by contacting Kiwanian Donna Siders at donnasiders@hotmail.com or 260-571-1892. Sponsors would receive complimentary tickets to the event and on-site recognition in exchange for their support for only \$150.

Wabash Kiwanis also supports youth- and community-focused initiatives like Riley Hospital for Children, the Eagles Theatre renovation, FAME, the Honeywell Foundation's Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) and Educational Outreach programs, the Wabash County Scholarship Pageant, Founder's Day, Wabash Area Community Theater, the Wabash High School

MSD school board holds regular meeting Dec. 10

STAFF REPORT

The MSD of Wabash County School Board met to conduct business Tuesday, Dec. 10, according to a press release.

Donations were accepted and approved for a total of \$10,900.

For the student and staff recognitions, under Staff Spotlight, parent Tisha Strickler nominated Southwood Elementary first grade teacher Alison Monce.

"She is amazing not only with her students from what I have seen so far this year but also with their parents. You can tell that she loves what she does and is truly out to make a difference in her students' lives because she cares. The little things that she does makes them more comfortable as first-graders and little people. She sent each of her students a letter addressed to them personally the week before school introducing herself with a picture and telling them all of her favorite things to do."

She also said how much she couldn't wait to meet them at the Back to School Night and learn all of their favorite things. The letter broke the ice for the students, got them excited, and informed them of the important dates.

All along, she was also settling little nerves at the same time. I could not be more excited to have her for my daughter's teacher this year. A teacher that genuinely cares about the children that they teach is priceless these days," stated Strickler.

Northfield Jr./Sr. High School would like to congratulate Levi Fulkerson for making the COLTS Academic All-State Football Team.

"This is quite an honor on and off the field. We are very proud of him," stated the release.

Sharp Creek would like to congratulate the fifth and sixth grade Spell Bowl Team for placing first at the regional competition at Wabash Middle School on Nov. 18. Team members include

fifth-graders Hayden Copeland and Kiana Stevens and sixth-graders Neil Long, Joleen Gedcus and Gabriella Schenkel; fifth grade, Keeshia Dacuba, Holten Satterthwaite and Chloe Youngblood; sixth grade, Waylon Adkins, Riley Morrisett and Alyssa Schnepf.

Sharp Creek would like to congratulate the first quarter Wabash County Promise Scholars. These students were nominated by their teachers as Promise Scholars for the first nine weeks. This award is given each quarter to one Promise Scholar per grade level at each Wabash County school—for academic skills, persistence, positive peer leadership, good citizenship or personal responsibility at school. Each student received an award certificate and a Promise Scholar sports bag as well as \$25 in their Promise Scholarship fund.

Scholars include Fourth grade, Collin Biehl; fifth grade, Nichole Fisher; and sixth grade, Jade Harrington.

The nominating teachers said the following about these students:

"Collin is a great student in the classroom. He has a quiet way of helping his peers. Collin is a leader on our robotics team. He has a kind spirit about him."

"Nichole is an excellent example to the other students in fifth grade. She always follows rules and routines. She also strives to do her very best on every assignment."

"Jade works hard and always tries to do her best. Her teachers appreciate her work ethic. She is a great girl."

Sharp Creek congratulates the school finalists for the 2019 Honeywell Win-

ter Banner Competition: Fourth grade, Ali Copeland, Joleen Gedcus and Gabriella Schenkel; fifth grade, Keeshia Dacuba, Holten Satterthwaite and Chloe Youngblood; sixth grade, Waylon Adkins, Riley Morrisett and Alyssa Schnepf.

A special congratulations to Schenkel for being the overall fourth grade winner and Ali Copeland for being Sharp Creek's overall school winner.

"A special thanks to Mrs. Gray and the Honeywell Foundation for this amazing opportunity for our artists," stated the release.

At Metro North Elementary, over the last two weeks,

Mrs. Stacey Meredith, Little Norse preschool teacher, has opened her classroom to Ivy Tech students completing their child development associate (CDA) certification.

Students completing their CDA are required to complete various observations within a Level 3 or higher Paths to Quality program.

"Thank you Mrs. Meredith for opening your classroom and providing an enriching experience for our Little Norse students and our Ivy Tech students," stated the release.

Twelve Metro North artists were honored at the Honeywell Center as part of the Winter Street Banner Contest including Sadie King, Auttie Fulkerson and Sheila Smith. These three artists will have their artwork displayed on a banner hanging outside in downtown Wabash throughout the holiday season.

Other artists honored in-

clude Hadley Brubaker, Ezra Williams, Lillian Sears, Julianne Turner, Sophia Al-lard, Weston Rice, Hattie Weaver, Cole Hemingway and Tenley Kuhn.

"Thank you to Mrs. Gray and the Honeywell Foundation for this amazing opportunity for our artists," stated the release.

"Over the last two months, we have had some phenomenal family experiences at Metro North. We had 600-plus attend our community trick-or-treat, 300-plus attend our Metro North Family Night, and our first- and third-graders performed for a packed house last Thursday at our Christmas program and Art Showcase. These programs are due to the generous support of our Metro North PTO as well as the time, effort and passion of our Metro North staff."

During the superintendent report, the following students who were finalists for the Lilly Scholarship were congratulated: Levi Fulkerson, Northfield Jr.-Sr. High School; Shyla Judy, Southwood Jr.-Sr. High School; Jackson Simons, Southwood Jr.-Sr. High School.

The Education Fund balance for the end of November was over \$4.3 million.

Under new business

■ The School Board approved the snow removal bid from Brainard's Snow Removal.

■ The School Board approved the amended and restated agreement and declaration and declaration of trust of the North Central Indiana School Insurance Trust.

DRIVING TIPS

Continued from A1

behavior on those roads that causes the crash. Plan your trip according to weather and traffic conditions."

As a result, the ISP would like to offer the following safe driving tips.

■ Allow extra time to get to your destination.

■ Clear all windows of ice and snow and remove snow from hood, roof and headlights and tail lights.

■ Beware of bridges, overpasses and intersections where ice tends to form first.

■ Don't use cruise control on slick roads.

■ Avoid abrupt stops and starts, slow down gradually and keep wheels turning to avoid losing traction.

■ Use headlights even during daylight hours.

PANCAKE DAY

Continued from A1

volleyball team's Kills for a Cure fundraiser and more.

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"Jade works hard and always tries to do her best. Her teachers appreciate her work ethic. She is a great girl."

Sharp Creek congratulates the school finalists for the 2019 Honeywell Win-



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— A —

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APACHES

Continued from A1

48 hours.

"From that single idea, it has become a major student activity that many look forward to each year," he stated. "Each day students go downtown to check on the items, see what is needed and place new items out. Many of our students in our school clubs/organizations that require volunteer hours help out to receive their service points. ... Whether it is sorting the items, bagging them or placing them downtown, our students take care of things."

Galley stated they are seeking donations from the community.

"We especially need young boys and men's coats," he stated.

Galley stated anyone who has any cold weather hats, gloves, scarves, coats



PHOTO PROVIDED

ACTION: The "Apaches In Action" program has the goal of not only providing for others but to continue teaching and modeling for students, and the community.

or related items ready to donate, they may bring them to the WHS front office at 580 N. Miami St., or call 260-563-4131.



PHOTO PROVIDED

DONATE: Anyone who has any cold weather hats, gloves, scarves, coats or related items ready to donate, they may bring them to the WHS front office at 580 N. Miami St., or call 260-563-4131.

Trump conservative critics launch PAC to fight reelection

BY STEVE PEOPLES
AP National Politics Writer

NEW YORK — A small group of President Donald Trump's fiercest conservative critics, including the husband of the president's own chief adviser, is launching a super PAC designed to fight Trump's reelection and punish congressional Republicans deemed his "enablers."

The new organization, known as the Lincoln Project, represents a formal step forward for the so-called Never Trump movement, which has been limited largely to social media commentary and cable news attacks through the first three years of Trump's presidency.

Organizers report fundraising commitments exceeding \$1 million to begin, although they hope to raise and spend much more to fund a months-long advertising campaign in a handful of 2020 battleground states to persuade disaffected Republican voters to break from Trump's GOP.

The mission, as outlined in a website that launched Tuesday coinciding with a New York Times opinion piece, is simple: "Defeat President Trump and Trumpism at the ballot box."

The group is led by a seven-person advisory council that features some of the GOP's most vocal Trump critics.

Most, but not all, have already left the Republican Party to protest Trump's rise.

The principals include former John McCain adviser Steve Schmidt,

former Ohio Gov. John Kasich adviser John Weaver,

former New Hampshire GOP chair Jennifer Horn,

veteran Republican op-

erative Rick Wilson and George Conway, a conservative attorney and husband of Trump's chief counselor Kellyanne Conway.

In an interview, George Conway said he encouraged the new super PAC to involve Anonymous, an unnamed Trump administration official who authored a recent book warning the public against Trump's reelection. The rest of the group ultimately decided not to take Conway's suggestion.

"I think the more the merrier," George Conway told The Associated Press.

"And I hope maybe he — he or she, I don't know who Anonymous is — will come out someday and join the effort. Because everyone who believes as we do that Donald Trump is a cancer on the presidency and on the Constitution needs to help and join this effort."

Asked about the super PAC, Kellyanne Conway acknowledged her husband's involvement and said: "It's kind of disappointing to see some of the people who are involved, but not surprising."

The inception of the Lincoln Project is significant, but to say it represents a minority of Trump's Republican Party would be an understatement.

Roughly 9 in 10 Republican voters

approved of the president's job performance and have all year, according to Gallup.

And with very few exceptions, Trump has the public backing of virtually every Republican member of Congress.

Yet recent elections suggest that Trump's party is losing ground with educated voters and women, particularly in America's suburbs, which have traditionally leaned Re-

publican. This new group hopes to push those voters further toward the Democrats.

Kellyanne Conway dismissed the group as a collection of failed campaign managers.

"They never got a president elected into the White House. I'm sure that hurts, very much. But they never really accommodated the growing Republican Party and understood how to beat Democrats and we did," she told reporters at the White House.

Tim Murtough, the communications director for Trump's reelection campaign, called the effort a "pathetic little club of irrelevant and faux 'Republicans' who are upset that they've lost all of their power and influence inside the Republican Party."

The Lincoln Project is very much a work in progress, despite Tuesday's official launch. While the core players don't yet have titles, day-to-day operations will be led by Horn and Reed Galen, a veteran Republican operative who worked for McCain but left the GOP after Trump's nomination in 2016.

The group begins as a super PAC, which means

it can raise and spend unlimited sums of money and must disclose its donors.

"You're seeing a shift from talk into action," said Galen, describing the launch as "a big turning point for the political season and for the president's reelection."

Specifically, the group plans to focus on blocking Trump's reelection and defeating Trump-aligned Senate candidates in a handful of key 2020 battle-grounds.

To do so, it's targeting a narrow

but important slice of the electorate: disaffec-

ted Republicans and Republican-leaning independents.

While there is no concrete road map, Weaver said the organizers plan to fight the president's reelection in Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin along with Arizona and North Carolina. Their Senate efforts likely would focus on Arizona, Colorado, North Carolina, Maine and possibly Kansas and Kentucky.

Weaver said the group is already reviewing scripts for new ads, which are expected to begin running early next year.

"This is organic, and we're going to be flexible," he said. "We have to go out and prove ourselves and prove that we can be efficient and effective."

Meanwhile, George Conway, who formally left the GOP last year, said he likely would serve in a "cheerleader" capacity for the new organization because of his limited political experience.

"I'm not a fundraiser or political consultant, but if I could help in that way and learn how to do that — even to raise a nickel or two — I'll do it because it's important," he said. "For this, I think I can make an exception."

He suggested the Lincoln Project would pay particular attention to Congress' impeachment proceedings.

"If he's not removed by the Senate, he needs to be removed at the ballot box," he said of Trump. "The people in Congress who are enabling him, either actively or passively, they, too, are violating their oaths of office. ... And they need to be removed, too."

Catch up on the 2020 election campaign with AP experts on our weekly, politics podcast, "Ground Game."

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Sports

B1

Wednesday, December 18, 2019

Inside today
Scoreboard / B2
Classifieds / B6

WabashPlainDealer.com

WPD

NASCAR



Area Calendar

Swimming - Manchester vs. Tippecanoe Valley, 5:30 p.m.

Challenge in ex-Chicago Bear girlfriend's death to proceed

WAUKEGAN, Ill. (AP) — A suburban Chicago judge ruled Tuesday that a woman convicted of murder in the 2007 shooting death of ex-Chicago Bear Shaun Gayle's pregnant can proceed with her effort for a new trial or evidentiary hearing.

Lake County Judge Christopher Stride said the petition that Marni Yang's attorney filed in October has merit and can proceed.

Yang's attorney, Jed Stone, called the decision a "big step towards exoneration" at a news conference after the hearing, according to the Lake County News-Sun.

But in a statement, Lake County State's Attorney Mike Nerheim said the ruling was expected given that the judge was only required to review statements made by Yang's attorney. He said the ruling simply sets up the next stage in the challenge in which his office will be able to respond to Stone's claims for the first time.

Electronic home monitoring OK'd for Pryor stabbing defendant

PITTSBURGH (AP) — A

judge has decided that a woman charged with attempted homicide and aggravated assault in a Pittsburgh stabbing that critically injured former Ohio State quarterback Terrelle Pryor can be released on electronic home monitoring.

Allegheny County Common Pleas Judge Jeffrey Manning ruled Tuesday that 24-year-old Shalaya Briston will only be permitted to leave the home for court proceedings.

Defense attorney Lee Rothman cited his client's employment and lack of a criminal record. A preliminary hearing in her case is scheduled Thursday.

Pryor, 30, was taken to a hospital early Nov. 30 following what police called a dispute with "mutual combatants" in an apartment on the city's North Side. He faces a charge of simple assault.

Submit your news

The Plain Dealer is accepting all news, varsity, junior varsity, middle school, elementary school and non-school affiliated recreational sports. Items may be:

E-mailed to sports@wabashplaindealer.com.

Called into 260-225-4523 after 11 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Please do not leave complete results on voice mail.

Mailed into Plain Dealer, 123 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46929.

Organizations or individuals e-mailing materials should call the sports department to ensure the information was received. The Plain Dealer reserves the right to edit material for length, clarity and/or style, and does not guarantee publication.



FILE PHOTO

DRIBBLE: Southwood's Erin Lehner drives into the paint during the Knights' game against Northfield last week.

County match-ups aplenty on weekend

BY JACOB RUDE

sports@wabashplaindealer.com

In the final week of the regular season in 2019, intra-county match-ups are aplenty in both girls and boys basketball as part of a busy week and finish to the year.

Girls basketball

Southwood (2-8) vs. Manchester (2-10), Dec. 20, 6:15 p.m.;

at Peru, Dec. 21, noon

Two sides who have struggled this season will meet on Friday in search of a momentum boost.

Southwood, after two consecutive strong performances that came in losses, is still in search of its first Three Rivers Conference (TRC) win. Manchester,

meanwhile, is looking for its second consecutive TRC victory after knocking off Whitko last weekend.

MaKenna Pace has led the Knights this season in scoring, averaging 9.4 points per game. Erin Lehner averages 6.4 points and 5.7 rebounds per contest. The Squires, meanwhile, have faced similar offensive struggles, averaging just 33.7 points per game compared to Southwood's 32.6 per game.

Leading Manchester in scoring this year is Emma Garriott at 6.8 points per contest. Ranissa Shambarger and Ainsley West follow with 4.5 and 4.2 points per game, respectively.

Manchester dominates the all-time series, 66-18. Southwood last defeated the Squires on Dec. 18 in 2015. Manchester has won the last six meetings since.

The contest will be a pre-

cursor to the Wabash County Tournament where the two sides will meet.

After Friday's game, the Knights will have a quick turnaround to face Peru on Saturday afternoon. The Tigers are 6-4 on the season but are 1-2 in TRC play so far with losses to Rochester and Northfield and a recent win over North Miami.

The Knights and Tigers have met 21 times with Peru winning 13 of the games.

Northfield (7-3) vs.

Wabash (5-5), Dec. 21, 7:45 p.m.

The Norse have found their form in recent weeks, winning five straight games.

The Norse can make it six straight and head into the Wabash County Tournament on a roll with a win at home over Wabash on Saturday.

Northfield has won the last

four meetings against Wabash, the last loss coming in the sectional in 2017. The new-look Norse have been trending upwards this season, led by the duo of Emma Hoover and Addi Baker. The former averages 10.2 points per game while the latter leads the team in scoring at 11.6 points per game while also grabbing 8.1 rebounds per contest.

While the Norse are trending up, the Apaches have sputtered throughout the year. After starting 1-3, Wabash won four of the next five games to move over .500 before falling to Rochester last week.

Alivia Short and Mariah Wyatt continue to lead the Apaches with Short averaging 11.0 points and 7.7 rebounds and Wyatt averaging 10.2 points and 8.0

See BASKETBALL / Page B2

NFL

Brees sets NFL all-time TD mark as Saints crush Colts 34-7

BY BRETT MARTEL

AP Sports Writer

NEW ORLEANS — Drew Brees trotted along the sideline holding his helmet and a Hall of Fame-bound ball in his left hand while using his right hand to wave and blow kisses to an adoring Superdome crowd.

Another milestone, another memory, for an underestimated player who has broken just about every significant record a quarterback can break — and doesn't look anywhere near done at age 40.

Brees became the NFL's all-time leader in touchdown passes, throwing for four scores to lead the New Orleans Saints to a 34-7 victory over the Indianapolis Colts on Monday night.

"It was special, everything about the night," Brees said. "It just kind of makes your whole life and career flash before your eyes, because I never thought I'd have a chance to be part of something like this."

The scoring strike that broke Peyton Manning's record of 539 career touchdown passes came in the third quarter, when Brees hit tight end Josh Hill for a 5-yard score. Brees' next pass in the game was the 541st scoring toss of his career, a 28-yarder to reserve QB and utility player Taylor Hill that put the Saints up 34-0.

"He's done that to a lot of defenses," Colts coach Frank Reich said. "When he gets like that, I don't know that anybody can stop him."

Now in his 19th season, the 6-foot Brees — a 2001 second-round draft choice — came into the game already holding NFL records for completions with 6,792 and yards passing with 72,577.

He built on those numbers while also setting a record for completion percentage in a game. He completed 29 of 30 passes — 96.7% — for 307 yards before being relieved by Teddy Bridgewater in the fourth quarter. That broke the mark Philip Rivers had held since completing 28 of 29 (96.6%) against Arizona last season.

"He had a hot hand, obviously," Saints coach Sean Payton said. "Guys were making plays, but that's awfully difficult to do."

The victory kept the Saints (11-3), who'd al-

ready won the NFC South, in the running with Seattle (11-3), San Francisco (11-3) and Green Bay (11-3) for one of the top two seeds in the NFC playoffs.

"There's a lot at stake right now relative to these games when you look at the top of the NFC," Payton said. "It's about winning and winning and trying to give yourself the best chance in the post-season."

The Colts (6-8) were eliminated from playoff contention after losing their fourth straight and sixth out of seven.

They were also left struggling to explain their lack of competitiveness in a game they needed to win.

See COLTS / Page B2

Inside today

Scoreboard / B2

Classifieds / B6

Hailie

Deegan

jumps to Ford to fast-track her racing career

BY JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Hailie Deegan, a rising 18-year-old star in motorsports, was named a development driver with Ford Performance on Tuesday in a deal that could fast-track her progression into a NASCAR national series.

Deegan spent the last two years as part of Toyota's crowded development field before the switch. The partnership with Ford will give her numerous opportunities to race this season, including the full ARCA schedule as well select sports car events in the IMSA Michelin Pilot Challenge.

Deegan in ARCA will race for DGR-Crosley, which last week became a Ford Performance team. She will drive a Mustang GT4 with Multimatic Motorsports in IMSA.

"Hailie has shown in her brief time behind the wheel of a stock car that she's got what it takes to be successful," said Mark Rushbrook, global director of Ford Performance Motorsports. "Our goal is to put her on a path to realize our shared goal of winning championships and part of that is gaining experience on tracks such as road courses and superspeedways."

Deegan made NASCAR history in 2018 when she became the first female driver to win a race in what was then called the K&N Pro Series West. The California native has three wins in that series, now known as ARCA Menards Series West, in two full seasons and she finished third in this year's standings.

Deegan this year also made six ARCA starts, with a best finish of fifth at Lucas Oil Raceway.

"It became clear quickly that I align with the Ford Performance vision of driver development and our shared drive to win," Deegan said. "It is also extra special to get to race with Ford, a family company, that already had ties to my family. Growing up watching my dad race a Ford, and now to be able to do the same thing is very cool."

Deegan has never raced a Ford competitively before, but her father, Brian, drove a Ford Fiesta in the Global Rallycross Championship and won a gold medal in the Rallycross competition at the X Games in 2011. He has also driven a Ford Raptor as part of the Lucas Oil Off-Road Series.

Deegan's debut in a Ford will be during next month's IMSA Roar Before the 24 test session at Daytona International Speedway. It will be her preparation for the Michelin Pilot Challenge opener at Daytona on Jan. 24, where she will partner with Chase Briscoe.

Deegan joins Briscoe, Austin Cindric, Ben Rhodes and others in the Ford development program. Cole Custer came through the program and in November was promoted to the Cup Series for 2020 with Stewart-Haas Racing.

SCOREBOARD**HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL**

The Associated Press Top 10 Indiana high school boys basketball teams, with first-place votes in parentheses, records, rating points and previous rankings:

	W-L	Pts	Prv
1. Lawrence North (11)	5-0	310	3
2. Bloomington South (5)	4-0	269	2
3. Lafayette Jeff	4-0	223	5
4. Lawrence Central	2-1	205	1
5. Warren Central	3-0	165	9
6. Floyd Central	4-0	148	9
7. Brownsburg	5-1	141	4
8. Fishers	4-0	120	NR
9. Westfield	4-0	78	NR
10. S. Bend Adams	4-0	37	NR

Others receiving votes:

Jeffersonville 32.	Carmel 30.	Culver Academy
Bloomington North 26.	Indpls Cathedral	
23. Indianapolis Attacks 23.	Lake Central 14.	
Homestead 13.	Columbus North 12.	Goshen
9. Ev. Reitz 6.	Zionsville 6.	

Class 3A

	W-L	Pts	Prv
1. Silver Creek (16)	5-0	320	1
2. Danville	6-0	254	T6
3. Heritage Hills	3-1	225	2
4. Connerville	5-0	166	NR
5. Greensburg	2-1	158	3
6. Indpls Brebeuf	3-1	147	T6
7. Ev. Bosse	2-1	124	4
8. Princeton	3-1	97	5
9. Norwell	4-0	91	NR
10. S. Bend St. Joseph's	4-1	69	8

Others receiving votes:

Delta 64.	N. Harrison 57.	Jimtown 55.
Beech Grove 21.	Greenastle 17.	Sullivan 17.
Indian Creek 14.	NorthWood 10.	Peru 7.
Northwestern 7.		

Class 2A

	W-L	Pts	Prv
1. Linton-Stockton (11)	4-0	304	1
2. Ft. Wayne Blackhawk (4)	3-1	261	1
3. Blackford	4-0	239	4
4. Shenandoah (1)	3-1	219	2
5. Prairie Hts.	6-0	167	6
6. Tipton	6-0	163	7
7. Ev. Mater Dei	5-1	75	NR
8. Southwestern (Jefferson)	5-2	72	5
9. University	4-0	69	NR
10. S. Decatur	5-0	65	NR

Others receiving votes:

Wapahani 62.	Indpls Howe 43.	Lapel 39.
Northeastern 32.	N. Posey 18.	LaVille 14.
Indpls Covenant Christian 14.	Audrean 10.	
Indpls Park Tudor 9.	Westview 7.	

Class 1A

	W-L	Pts	Prv
1. Gary 21st Century (9)	6-0	306	1
2. Barr-Reeve (7)	4-0	280	2
3. Bloomfield	4-0	229	3
4. Greenwood Christian	5-0	218	4
5. Kouts	5-0	206	5
6. Covington	4-2	119	8
7. Lafayette Catholic	3-2	117	7
8. Logoochtee	3-1	109	6
9. Oldenburg	3-1	100	9
10. Providence Cristo Rey	6-0	87	NR

Others receiving votes:

Morrison 62.	Dubois 37.	Christian Academy 20.
Atтика 18.	Covenant Christian (DeMotte) 9.	
Indpls Metro 6.		

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

x-New England 11	3	0	.786	372	181
x-Buffalo	10	4	.714	291	222
N.Y. Jets	5	9	.357	247	343
Miami	3	11	0	.214	241
	4	3	.435	250	353

South

y-Baltimore	12	2	.857	472	257
Pittsburgh	8	6	.571	269	259
Cleveland	6	8	.429	247	329
Cincinnati	1	13	.071	211	359

West

y-Kansas City	10	4	.714	394	284
Oakland	6	8	.429	274	386
Denver	5	9	.357	239	284
L.A. Chargers	5	9	.357	299	290

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

Dallas	7	7	.500	378	288
Philadelphia	7	7	.500	334	328
N.Y. Giants	3	11	0	.214	283
Washington	3	11	0	.214	215

South

y-New Orleans 11	3	0	.786	378	303
Tampa Bay	7	7	0	.571	394
Atlanta	5	9	0	.357	329
Carolina	5	9	0	.357	324

North

x-Green Bay	11	3	0	.786	330	283
Minnesota	10	4	0	.714	378	259
Chicago	7	7	0	.500	256	253
Detroit	3	10	1	.250	304	373

West

x-San Francisco 11	3	0	.786	419	258

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MLB

Strasburg hopes to play whole career with Nationals

BY STEPHEN WHYNO

AP Sports Writer

WASHINGTON — Naturally, Stephen Strasburg thought of himself pitching for a team other than the Nationals.

After winning and being MVP of the World Series, Strasburg opted out of his contract and hit the open market. The possibility was real that he'd played his last game in a Washington uniform.

Instead, Strasburg followed the lead of boyhood idol Tony Gwynn by signing a \$245 million, seven-year deal that could allow him to play his entire career with the Nationals. This contract has no opt-outs, no options and a full no-trade clause, Stras-

burg will be 38 when it expires and could become just the eighth pitcher in major league history to spend 17-plus seasons with the same franchise.

"It's really hard to come by in this game," Strasburg said Tuesday. "When you're given an opportunity to be in one spot and grow as a person and a player, to be a part of an organization like this, you can't really let those opportunities go by."

Hitting free agency meant Strasburg wasn't a sure bet to return, especially with Scott Boras as his agent. Boras client and Anthony Rendon went from manning third base with the Nationals to signing a mirror-image (without deferrals) \$245 mil-

lion, seven-year contract with the Los Angeles Angels.

"For Anthony, what he did for this organization the way he played, I got all the respect for what he can do as a baseball player and wish him the best," ace Max Scherzer said.

But the Nationals put a focus on bringing back Strasburg, continuing their organizational model of prioritizing starting pitching over everything else. More than anything, they let it be known they wanted their homegrown star back.

"(General manager Mike Rizzo) kept in contact with me throughout, and I had the privilege obviously to talk with Ted and Mark (Lerner) about Stras' situation," Boras said. "We always had the dy-

namic as far as the organizational goals, and it was very clear that Stephen was a priority. ... Those things are important for players to know."

With Scherzer and lefty Patrick Corbin under contract, the Nationals were positioned fine if Strasburg left. His \$35 million average salary is a big jump from the contract he opted out of, and there was some uncertainty in Washington's front office not knowing if it would be able to get something done with Strasburg.

"You play the 'what if?' game," Rizzo said. "We had options A, B, C. You have to have multiple layers and multiple different ideas and opportunities and options to fall back on if you don't get

your primary target. It's a little bit nerve-wracking, but we felt confident throughout the process that Stephen wanted to be here, we wanted him here and it was just kind of getting to the bottom line."

After not getting to that point with Rendon, the Nationals turn their attention to filling the void at third base. Rizzo confirmed interest in free agent Josh Donaldson, who spent last season with the Atlanta Braves.

"There's a bunch of different ways to construct a roster," Rizzo said. "We feel that we have great options both internally and in the free agent market and in the trade market, so we'll explore those like we do every year and try and construct a team

that Washington could be proud of and that gives us a chance to win another World Series."

Replacing Rendon and filling the bullpen are the remaining offseason checklist items for Washington after bringing back Strasburg, NLCS MVP Howie Kendrick and catcher Yan Gomes. Soon, Strasburg and his teammates will take their talents to West Palm Beach, Florida, for spring training and try to do it all over again.

"It's funny, you go win the World Series and everybody starts to write you off for next year," Strasburg said. "I think that's pouring gas on the fire for me and I think for a lot of other guys. There's no stopping us now."

GOLF

Internationals were lacking ownership in Presidents Cup

BY DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia — Ernie Els has finished second to Tiger Woods more than any other player, and he never looked more spectacular doing it than as captain in the Presidents Cup.

"OK, you got me," Els said to him with a wry grin during the closing ceremony at Royal Melbourne.

Was it really a surprise?

Sure, the Americans were the first team to rally from a deficit on the final day to win the Presidents Cup, and it was their first in any cup since a four-point comeback in the Ryder Cup at Brookline in 1999. Some context is required. They've won the Ryder Cup only twice since then, and they hardly ever lose the Presidents Cup.

Even with a 10-8 lead going into singles, Els and his International team were playing against a stacked deck, as usual.

It wasn't as bad as the time Els trailed Woods by 10 shots going into the final round at Pebble Beach in the U.S. Open. Still, it didn't seem like a fair fight.

The Internationals had only two players among the top 20 in the world ranking. Woods' team had 10 players from the top 20, and that didn't even include the injured Brooks Koepka at No. 1 in the world. Two of the four wild-card selections for the Americans, including Woods, won majors this year. In the singles session, the outcome felt inevitable.

Els was gracious in defeat, and also gutted.

He had fashioned 12 players representing nine flags into a team with identity and purpose. The logo he created for the International team was a

combination of shields and badges culled from history that spoke to unity and loyalty, friendship, strength and fight. And they had a chance, which is more than they've had some years.

"If you compare our team on paper with other teams in other sport, you would have laughed us out of the building," Els said. "But we gave it a hell of a go and we came mightily close to winning and upsetting one of the greatest golf teams of all time."

But they didn't.

And it won't get any easier the next time. Or the time after that.

This is about more than world rankings and experience, about which team looks better on paper. Because if it were, then how to explain the Ryder Cup? Europe is strong now. It wasn't always. It still has an 11-8-1 lead over the United States dating to 1979, the start of the modern era.

But while the Ryder Cup is billed as a contest between the flags of two continents, it's really between two tours.

The European Tour picks the venue (it usually goes to the highest bidder these days). It has full control of all operations. Paris last year felt like a home game — the course, not just the crowd — just as Hazeltine was for the Americans.

The Presidents Cup is a match between two teams, one owner.

The PGA Tour selects the site. The PGA Tour picks the captains, though not without heavy input from all the key people on the International side.

That magnificent logo Els created for the International team? He said it required PGA Tour approval. The support staff for the International team are PGA Tour employees, even if they hail from countries outside the U.S.

The money — the Presidents Cup

sells extremely well — stays with one organization every time.

That's not why the Americans win, and Els wasn't suggesting that. They win because they play better golf and hole more putts. There is a comfort level at the Presidents Cup they don't experience in the Ryder Cup.

"I know it's a PGA Tour-sanctioned event, OK?" Els said. "But to really be able to do what you need to do, you need to be almost a separate ... you need to be away from the PGA Tour."

Nothing personal. He paused to pat the back of Mark Williams, who played professionally in Australia and now works as a media official for the PGA Tour. Last week, he was assigned to the International team and fit right in.

"I love these guys. They work for the tour and all that," Els said. "But to make our own rules, to get our own choices, to do our own thing, it's hard to explain. But we need to be separate. ... The Ryder Cup works because the Europeans do their own thing and the U.S. do their own thing. It's two groups that clash. We're trying to do it under one umbrella."

The next Presidents Cup will be at Quail Hollow Club in North Carolina, a home game for the U.S. team. And then? A group from Thailand was at Royal Melbourne last week expressing interest. The best bet is a return to Royal Montreal. Another one in Asia or the first one in a Latin America country is possible after that.

It would help if the Internationals would win. Keeping it close only does so much. If they ever do, that might only remind Els of the one problem that can't be solved.

Where would the International team display the trophy?

balloon as well.

On the surface, the decision to have a G League team there — the Mexico City-based club Capitanes joins the league next season — seems logical for a lot of reasons. Growing the game around the world, including Latin America, is a very real priority for the NBA. Mexico City's population is roughly the same as New York, and the city is a major player in the global economic markets.

But this isn't about the G League.

This is about seeing if the NBA will work there.

There are no active plans to expand the NBA past its current 30 teams. But if this experiment works — and the league does acknowledge that Mexico City has been a discussion point in previous expansion conversations — expect growth to become a very hot topic.

The NBA has long had at least some level of interest in expanding past the U.S. and Canada, and tapping into a new marketplace will show if revenue streams in Mexico City exist to support putting an NBA team there one day.

It might be of popular sentiment to bring a team back to Seattle or put one in Las Vegas, but that won't do much for the bottom line when it comes to the national TV deals that have helped salaries soar in recent years.

The easiest way for the league to find new money may be to take the game to a totally new locale.

There are countless challenges in Mexico City — the altitude (NBA teams have brought hyperbaric chambers with them, something G League teams likely don't have the budget for) and the water among them. But if this works, it makes sense to believe that the NBA will be there for real one day.

"I have no doubt, the league, at whatever time the tables turn to look at expansion, Mexico City will be on our list," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said.

ANOTHER MILESTONE

LeBron James, by the count of basketball-reference.com, is up to 57,223 minutes so far in his career, including playoffs.

That's fifth all-time. He's probably going to be third in a couple of days. And he isn't slowing down.

By that site's count, James is 60 minutes behind Nowitzki and 70 minutes behind Kobe Bryant. He's about 3,500 minutes behind Abdul-Jabbar and roughly 5,500 behind all-time leader Karl Malone.

Nowitzki averaged 7.3 points in his final season, when he got to that minute total. Bryant averaged 17.6 points in his final season. James, meanwhile, hasn't dropped off a bit — he's averaging 26.1 points and 7.4 rebounds, both basically consistent with his career norms, and is averaging a far-and-away career-best 10.7 assists.

NFL

Former quarterback Greg Ward turns into Eagles top receiver

BY ROB MAADDI

AP Pro Football Writer

PHILADELPHIA — Greg Ward outplayed Patrick Mahomes to win a district championship in high school and was a star quarterback in college before converting to wide receiver in the pros and getting cut three straight years in training camp.

Now, Ward is the most reliable wideout on the Philadelphia Eagles after spending two-plus seasons on the practice squad.

It's been quite a journey for the 24-year-old who caught his first career touchdown pass with 32 seconds remaining Sunday to put Philadelphia ahead against Washington in a game the Eagles ended up winning 37-27.

"You always think about big catches like that," Ward said. "It is truly a blessing to be in that position and in that environment. I am truly blessed, and I am thankful. I have been working a lot just to be able to make that play. I am just grateful."

The victory kept the Eagles (7-7) in position to win the NFC East. They'll host Dallas (7-7) this week with the division on the line.

Ward threw for 8,704

yards and 52 TDs, completing 67.8 percent of his passes in four seasons at the University of Houston. He also ran for 2,381 yards and 39 TDs. But Ward wasn't drafted and had to earn a spot on Philadelphia's practice squad in 2017. He got a Super Bowl ring that season but was cut twice in 2018. He played for San Antonio in the Alliance of American Football earlier this year before the league quickly shut down.

Ward returned to the Eagles in April, was among the final cuts, got signed to the practice squad, made his NFL debut in Week 3, was cut again, re-signed to the practice squad and got promoted to the roster for good last month.

He caught six passes in a loss to Seattle in Week 12 and four more in a comeback win over the Giants last Monday night.

With DeSean Jackson and Alshon Jeffery on injured reserve and Nelson Agholor out with a knee injury, Ward was the only wide receiver to catch a pass from Carson Wentz in the win over the Redskins.

He had seven catches for 61 yards and his first career score came on a fade pass in the back corner of the

end zone.

"I can only say good things about Greg, just kept coming up big late in the game like that," Wentz said.

"They went into man coverage multiple times and he beat his guy. He was a part of the progression, just kept making plays, making plays. For him to go up and get that ball and play that big in the red zone like that to seal the deal was sweet."

Five of Ward's receptions against the Redskins came in the fourth quarter, including three in the final two minutes.

"He has been here for a couple years now," Wentz said. "He's been on the practice squad and he's been kind of all over, and we've seen what he can do. .. We were having summer workouts together, so I've been around Greg plenty and I know what he can do and what he's capable of, and for him to do it (Sunday) was big for us."

Ward outplayed Mack Hollins for the fifth receiver spot in training camp but lost out to a guy who was drafted by the Eagles in the fourth round in 2017. Hollins was released two weeks ago after going eight straight games without

making a catch. His departure coupled with the injuries to the top three guys gave Ward an opportunity.

Ward already has more catches (18) in four games than rookie second-round pick J.J. Arcega-Whiteside (8) has in 14 games.

"We know the type of player that Greg Ward is because we've seen it day-in, day-out," Eagles coach Doug Pederson said. "He's made his impact the last few weeks."

Ward starred at John Tyler High School in Tyler, Texas, and faced Mahomes and Whitehouse High School for a district title in 2012. Mahomes helped his team to a 24-0 lead but Ward led his school back. Ward completed 20 of 24 passes for 323 yards and four TDs and rushed for 162 yards and another score in a 45-38 win. Mahomes threw for 441 yards and four TDs and ran for another one but lost a fumble that led to the winning score.

After Ward caught the game-winning TD pass against the Redskins, Mahomes wrote on Twitter: "That's my guy man! Congrats! But im still mad he beat me for the district championship in high school!"

His place in history is secure. All that's left to decide are the final numbers.

HOLE, FUTURE

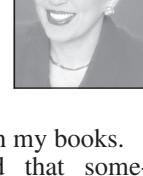
The G League is where the NBA tinkers with various ideas to see what works.

It bears wondering if the Mexico City move is a test

Woman serving time fears boyfriend's love will fade

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 25-year-old female currently serving a nine-year prison sentence. It is the first time I have ever been in trouble (wrong place, wrong time). My boyfriend is 24. We've been together 2½ years and have had our ups and downs (mostly ups). I am truly in love with him, and he tells me he will always be there for me.

Dear Abby



I have been in prison for five months so far, and he hasn't missed a visit or a phone call. He also makes sure I have money on my books.

I'm worried that somewhere down the road, since we're so young, he will meet someone and move on. In a way, I would kind of understand — I don't want his life to stop because mine has. But I also don't want to lose him. How do I keep our relationship strong, or should I let him go? — Locked Up In Delaware

DEAR LOCKED UP:

Nine years is a long time, and sometimes life happens in the interim. I can't predict what will happen, and you shouldn't either. Take things a day at a time. Keep the lines of communication open and honest.

Because things are going well, do not "let him go." If the romance ends, so be it. But if it does, appreciate that he seems to be a staunch friend and ally.

DEAR ABBY: I love my wife. We have been married for 38 years. However, she does something that drives me crazy.

I have a hard time going to sleep at night, and if I'm disturbed in those first few minutes of sleep, I'm up all night. We both agreed that when we say "goodnight," it means no more talking or loud noises. But almost every night after saying "goodnight," she wakes me up with something she HAS to say or explore. If it was an emergency, I wouldn't mind, but it's usually something of no consequence that could wait until morning.

I have tried ignoring her, pretending to be asleep, saying "goodnight again" in a rough tone of voice and getting angry. Nothing seems to work. I would appreciate some advice for dealing with this. — Sleepless In Texas

DEAR SLEEPLESS: A solid night's sleep is crucial for good health. Tell your wife to keep a notepad by the side of the bed and jot down what she wants to discuss the next morning. However, if she persists in awakening you, get up and go into another room. And continue doing it until your wife agrees to show more consideration.

DEAR ABBY: I have known my friend "Midge" for more than 60 years. We live in different states now, but keep in touch online. While our views are polar opposites on just about everything, we have remained friends.

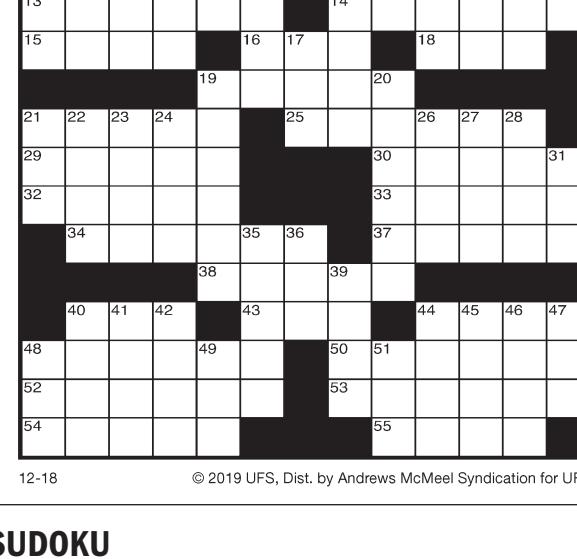
Over the last year, it seems Midge has reverted to being a wild teenager. She is smoking pot, got tattooed and is doing a lot of partying. Recently, she posted a very lengthy missive, including dozens of pictures, about how much she misses her ex-boyfriend. Abby, they broke up 10 years ago! I asked her sister about her bizarre behavior and was told, "Oh, that's just Midge." Is it time to let go of the friendship? — Not The Same In California

DEAR NOT THE SAME: Assuming that pot is legal in the state where Midge resides, she's doing nothing illegal, immoral or that will get her pregnant out of wedlock. Because you're concerned about her, call Midge to hear how she is. Sometimes an abrupt change in personality can be a symptom of a physical or mental health issue.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Mooches 43 Traveler's refuge
- 5 Spout, as Vesuvius 44 Paddock youngster
- 10 Whirl around 48 Reason out
- 12 Walking on air 50 Form a thought
- 13 BB shot 52 Lurched
- 14 Fishing spots 53 Arm art
- 15 Like some mrs. 54 Drained of energy
- 16 "Much — About Nothing" 55 Jewelry box catch
- 18 Flight dir. 1 DOWN
- 19 Debussy music 1 Farewells 2 WWW addresses
- 21 Helps a borrower 3 Germinated grain
- 25 The jitters 4 Sault — Marie
- 29 Pitch black 5 Ivy Leaguer
- 30 Costly furs 6 Enthusiastic thumbs-up
- 32 Ms. Davis of films 7 Comanche neighbors
- 33 Kind of ink 8 Pierre's dad
- 34 Rob Roy need 9 QB objectives
- 37 Robin domiciles 10 College stat
- 38 Clean the board 11 "L"—, c'est moi"



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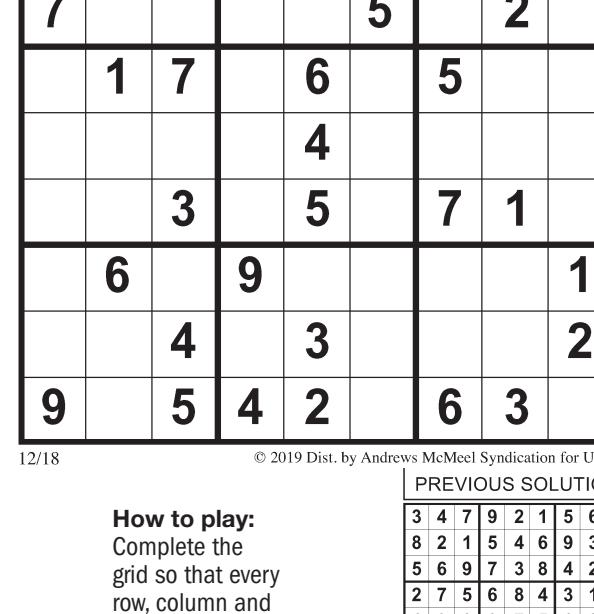
Answer to Previous Puzzle



12 Crumble away 36 "Star Wars" rogue
17 Demand payment from 39 Foul mood
19 Heir's legacy 40 Off-road vehicle
20 Elegant fur 41 Without cost
21 Haul along 42 Potter's oven
22 Teller's stack 44 Goat cheese
23 Obi-Wan portrayer 45 Feedbag filler
24 Muchacho 46 Perched on
26 Morning glory 47 Baseball's — Durocher
27 Purposes 48 AMA members
28 Short play 49 Validate
31 Stockholm carrier 51 Dit opposite
35 Called out 36 "I'M IN THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT"

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★



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How to play:

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

3 4 7 9 2 1 5 6 8
8 2 1 5 4 6 9 3 7
5 6 9 7 3 8 4 2 1
2 7 5 6 8 4 3 1 9
1 9 3 2 7 5 6 8 4
4 8 6 1 9 3 7 5 2
9 3 2 8 5 7 1 4 6
7 1 4 3 6 2 8 9 5
6 5 8 4 1 9 2 7 3

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France on strike: Power cuts, schools shut, no Eiffel Tower

BY ANGELA CHARLTON

AND ELAINE GANLEY

PARIS — French union activists cut electricity to nearly 100,000 homes or offices. Eiffel Tower staff walked off the job. Even Paris opera workers joined in Tuesday's nationwide protests across France, singing an aria of anger as workers rallied against the government's plan to raise the retirement age to 64.

Despite 13 days of crippling train and subway strikes, French President Emmanuel Macron and his government stayed firm. The prime minister declared his "total" determination to reshape a pension system that unions celebrate as a model for the rest of the world but that he calls unfair and destined to collapse into debt.

Lighting red flares and marching beneath a blanket of multi-colored union flags, thousands of workers snaked through French cities from Brittany on the Atlantic to

the Pyrenees in the south.

Hospital workers in scrubs, Air France staff in uniforms, lawyers wearing long black robes — people from across the French workforce joined in the strikes and protests in higher numbers than the last cross-sector walkout last week. The retirement reform that has brought them together is just one of their many gripes against Macron, a business-friendly centrist they fear is dismantling France's costly but often-envied welfare state.

Workers from the hard-left CGT union on Tuesday carried out what they called "targeted" blackouts on electricity networks around Lyon and Bordeaux to call attention to their grievances, and their power.

Several European countries have raised the retirement age or cut pensions in recent years to keep up with lengthening life expectancy and slowing economic growth.

Macron argues that France needs to do the same.

Tourists canceled plans and Paris commuters took hours to get to work Tuesday, as train drivers kept up their strike against changes to a system that allows them and other workers under special pension regimes to retire as early as their 50s.

"Monument Closed" read a sign on the glass wall circling the base of the Eiffel Tower, which was shut for the second time since the strike, one of the most protracted France has seen in years, started Dec. 5.

"It's very frustrating for us, unfortunately," South African tourist Victor Hellberg said, gazing up at the 19th century landmark. "We had decided to be here for one day and that's life I suppose."

Victor Garcia, visiting from Barcelona, said he's used to protests at home but admitted not climbing the Eiffel Tower's steps "is kind of

a bummer."

Police in Paris barricaded the presidential Elysee Palace, bracing for violence by yellow vest activists or other radical demonstrators.

Across the French capital, union leaders demanded that Macron drop the retirement reform.

"They should open their eyes," said Philippe Martinez, the head of the CGT union, said at the head of the Paris march.

With riot police watching closely, protesters carrying humorous signs and colorful costumes marched past the historic Bastille plaza. On the steps of the opera house overlooking the monument, workers sang famous arias and played instruments to defend their special retirement plan.

Bernard Buffet, a costume fitter, is 63 and retiring in April after 35 years at the Bastille Opera, but is protesting in solidarity with young

er colleagues.

"The government is stuck on the reform. They are very arrogant," he said.

Prime Minister Edouard Philippe confirmed new negotiations with unions starting Wednesday, but showed no sign of backing down.

"Democratic opposition, union opposition is perfectly legitimate," he told lawmakers. "But we clearly laid out our plans. And on this plan, the creation of a universal retirement system, my determination ... is total."

He also paid tribute to "the French who go to work despite difficulties."

In addition to transportation troubles, parents faced shuttered schools and students had key exams canceled Tuesday as teachers joined in the strike.

Hospitals requisitioned workers to ensure key services Tuesday, as nurses, doctors and pharmacists went on strike to save a once-vaunted

public hospital system that's struggling after years of cost cuts.

Tuesday's protests upped the pressure on Macron, whose key architect of his pension overhaul had to resign Monday over alleged conflicts of interest.

Unions fear people will have to work longer for lower pensions, and polls suggest at least of half of French people still support the strike. Unions at the SNCF rail authority want to keep the strike going through the Christmas holidays.

While patience was running short among Paris Metro riders squeezing into scarce trains, the strike troubles weren't enough to scare away some visitors to the City of Light.

Spanish tourist Lydia Marcos, finding the Eiffel Tower unexpectedly closed, shrugged it off and said, "It's like an excuse to come here another year."

Money talks: Hong Kong protesters weaponizing spending power

BY JOHN LEICESTER

Associated Press

HONG KONG — The Hong Kong protesters formed a line, patiently waiting their turn to buy sweet milk and tea drinks from a store that advertised ardent support for their cause with a banner declaring, "If you set off a nuclear blast, we'll stick by you."

For quicker service, they could have quenched their thirsts at an adjacent store that also sells bubble tea. It had no customers.

Which is exactly as the protesters intended.

Digging in for the long haul against Hong Kong's government, protesters are expanding their struggle from the streets to their wallets, weaponizing their spending power to punish businesses they deem hostile to their cause. The aim: to drive some firms under in the deepening recession gripping the crisis-hit city.

Guiding the consumer choices of tech-savvy protesters are apps that increasingly are color-coding businesses — everything from dentistry clinics and toy stores to dumpling restaurants and sex shops — into two categories: yellow for protest-friendly, blue for suspected opponents.

"Blue! blue!" protesters yelled outside the bubble tea shop they shunned during a rally this month that marked the half-year milestone for their movement.

The protests started in June to voice opposition to now-withdrawn extradition legislation and have morphed into what demonstrators say is a full-blown fight to safeguard Hong Kong's freedoms, unique among China's cities. Months of clashes with riot police who have fired 26,000 tear-gas and rubber-baton rounds and arrested more than 6,100 people are radicalizing legions of youths, upending the city's economy, and splitting families, work colleagues, friends and citizens into two entrenched camps.

Even employees of the supposedly "blue" bubble tea

store, wearing face masks like many of the demonstrators, advised them not to shop there, saying the company wasn't sympathetic to the protest movement.

"It stands for the police," protester Natasha Chan said, clutching a grapefruit and lemon tea purchased instead from the "yellow" Happy Holidays drinks store next door. "We chose not to shop from the blue side."

Protesters believe that by boycotting supposedly pro-establishment businesses, they can help shift the balance of power and wealth in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory.

Much of the city's \$345 billion economy and political influence are concentrated in the hands of magnates and enterprises linked to or supportive of mainland China and its Communist Party-led government — the ultimate boss of Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam.

Protesters also say that shopping "yellow" is another way to make their voices heard in the absence of direct elections for government leaders. Protesting with their wallets also enables people who can't always join street rallies, including those who fear being fired by pro-China employers, to otherwise contribute to the movement.

Before marching in the rally for the half-year milestone, accountant Nakata Law lined up for 15 minutes to support a snack shop that has donated to the protesters' cause, buying its steamed dumplings and gluey rice pancakes. A poster on the Jar Gor eatery says: "Support Yellow. This store has been rated as a true Hong Konger merchant."

"Most of the economy is controlled by China," Law said. "The citizens' view is that if we do not have our own economic circle in Hong Kong, we cannot support our protests to keep carrying on."

In the opposing camp, Phyllis Li, a systems analyst who believes protest violence has gotten out of hand, says she now deliberately chooses to eat at restaurants that protesters boycott "because it is

not fair to them."

"And because it's safe for us, too, because they don't go," she said.

Anecdotal evidence suggests protester boycotts are biting the bottom lines of some targeted businesses. Passenger traffic on Hong Kong's Mass Transit Railway dropped by a quarter in October and November. Transport disruption from protests caused some of the plunge. But some protesters are also refusing to use the network they suspect of colluding with police.

Edith Leung, an architectural assistant, says she hasn't ridden the MTR since August, taking buses instead.

Some protesters say they're so determined not to commute by train, they're getting up early to leave extra time for lengthier bus journeys.

"Sometimes we feel like it's just a drop in the ocean," Leung said. "But when more people do it, we become the ocean."

But some businesses finding themselves on the "blue" side of the city's hardening divide say they're being unfairly targeted.

Martin Khan says the Capital Cafe he runs with his brother on Hong Kong Island has lost half of its customers since accusations appeared online suggesting that they oppose the movement.

Khan says not only is that untrue, but that the "blue" tag apps have assigned to their eatery is based on unfounded suspicions of a supposed link between them and a singer, Alan Tam, who has spoken publicly in support of police.

Their cafe used to serve a toast, with melted cheese and shavings of black truffle, that they named after Tam, but has now removed it from the menu.

"Honestly, we have no connection with him," Khan said. "It's really not fair."

The developer of one of the apps, which uses crowdsourced information to distinguish supposed blue businesses from yellow ones, says he fears he is contributing to a politically motivated witch hunt — like those the

Communist Party has unleashed repeatedly across the border in mainland China.

"I'm very, very worried," said the developer, Chi Ho Leung. "It's like the Cultural Revolution."

His app, Hong Kong Shops, lists 1,700 stores, divided largely into yellow and blue. But Leung said he has neither the money nor time to verify the accuracy of information he found online about the businesses' supposed pro- or anti-protest leanings. He says stores can email him to request a change of color if they feel they've been inaccurately categorized.

But his app also invites users to name and shame stores they feel aren't supportive, offering categorizations including "deep blue" for businesses suspected of supporting police abuses and gray for those "selling out the people."

Leung says that because commercial rents are so expensive in Hong Kong, his hope is that boycotted stores may not survive the recession.

Although users say they regard the apps only as rough guides and not bibles, they're building the act of protest shopping into daily habits. It is just one example of how the protest movement is altering the fabric of Hong Kong life and awakening citizens politically, even if it hasn't succeeded in making Beijing and Hong Kong leaders bend to calls for full democracy and other demands.

Franklin Lau, who works in public relations, says he now uses blue/yellow apps and other online pointers, including Facebook posts, on a regular basis. He says he wants to "draw a line" between himself and any business that opposes the protests. He also wants to avoid the stigma that protesters are attaching to those who still shop "blue."

"If you say, 'Well, I had a meal in a blue restaurant just now' ... you tend not to like share (that) news with your friend," Lau said. "You don't want to have any association or connection with them."

teenager from Wardak province, lost both his legs in a U.S. airstrike in October this year.

A new report by the U.N. children's agency, released Tuesday, says that in the first nine months of this year, nine children were killed or maimed every day as a result of war — an 11 percent increase from the same period in 2018. UNICEF blames the increase on a "surge in suicide bomb attacks and ground fighting."

"Even by Afghanistan's grim standards, 2019 has been particularly deadly for children," said UNICEF's Executive Director Henrietta Fore. "Children, their families and communities suffer the horrific consequences of conflict each and every day."

At the International Committee of the Red Cross' rehabilitation center in Kabul, 13-year-old Abdullah is still getting used to his prosthesis. He lost his left leg when he stepped on an improvised explosive device in Maymana in northwestern Afghanistan. Abdullah comes regularly to the center to practice walking with the help of a prosthesis. He is one of 46,194 amputees registered with the ICRC in Afghanistan.

Since the ICRC began its rehabilitation program in Afghanistan in 1988, more than 177,000 people, including more than 46,000 amputees, have been treated at its centers across the country. Among the amputees registered with the ICRC in Afghanistan.

The center treats Afghani-

stan's many war wounded. An international organization, it was founded in 1994 and provides free, high-quality health care to victims of war, whether they be wounded by land mines or caught in the brutal fighting between the country's warring sides. They also train local medical staff.

Eimal's father, Ismatullah, rushed his son to a local hospital, which was able to provide only basic first aid. Eimal was quickly transferred to the Italian-run Emergency Surgical Center for Civilian War Victims in the Afghan capital of Kabul.

The center treats Afghani-

stan's many war wounded. An international organization, it was founded in 1994 and provides free, high-quality health care to victims of war, whether they be wounded by land mines or caught in the brutal fighting between the country's warring sides. They also train local medical staff.

Between 2009 and 2018, nearly 6,500 children were killed and almost 15,000 others injured, helping make Afghanistan the world's most lethal warzone in 2018, the report said.

The harm inflicted by more than four decades of war has been cumulative.

In 2018 Afghanistan was the world's most lethal warzone, said the UNICEF report.

Even though the report said

the number of children killed and injured has decreased, the report said.

The report also said that the number of children killed and injured has decreased, but the number of children killed and injured has increased.

Protests of India's citizenship law grow, along with clashes

BY EMILY SCHMALL

AND SHEIKH SAALIQ

Associated Press

NEW DELHI — Protests spread Tuesday across India against a new law that provides a path to citizenship for non-Muslims entering illegally from several neighboring countries, with angry demonstrators clashing with police.

Police fired tear gas in the Seelampur area of New Delhi to push back demonstrators who burned a police booth and two motorbikes after throwing stones and swarming barricades.

Roads leading to the Muslim-majority neighborhood were littered with stones, tear gas canisters and broken glass.

"We are protesting against the new citizenship law. They are saying if you don't have any proof (of citizenship) ... they will send us out of India," said 15-year-old

Mohammad Shehzad.

Protests also were reported in the states of West Bengal, Kerala, Karnataka and elsewhere of the law, which was passed in Parliament last week. On Sunday, a march by students at New Delhi's Jamia Millia Islamia University descended into chaos when demonstrators set three buses ablaze.

Police responded with rubber bullets and tear gas. Video showed officers chasing unarmed protesters and beating them with sticks.

Hanjala Mojibi, an English major at the predominantly Muslim school, said that when he and others saw police enter the campus, they walked toward them with their hands up to indicate the protest was nonviolent.

"The police made all 15 of us kneel and started beating us. They used lots of abusive words. One of them removed my prescription glasses, threw (them) on the

ground, broke them and told me to look down," Mojibi said through tears at a news conference.

Also on Sunday, police stormed Aligarh Muslim University in the north Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, firing tear gas and injuring five people participating in a student-led demonstration, university spokesman Rahat Abrar said.

Shahid Hussain, a 25-year-old history major, said police broke windows in his dormitory and lobbed a tear gas canister inside.

After fleeing the building to escape the fumes, police pushed him against a tree and beat him with sticks, he said.

Police spokesman Sunil Bainsla denied the account, calling allegations of police brutality "lies."

The police response to the protests has drawn widespread condemnation. It also has sparked a broader movement against the

Citizenship Amendment Act, with demonstrations erupting across the country.

The new law applies to Hindus, Christians and other religious minorities who are in India illegally but can demonstrate religious persecution in Muslim-majority Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan. It does not apply to Muslims.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ruling Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party has described the law as a humanitarian gesture.

While it was being debated in Parliament, Home Minister Amit Shah said it was "not even .001 percent against minorities. It is against infiltrators." Modi told an election rally in eastern Jharkhand state that no Indian citizen would be affected by the law. Speaking about Sunday's protests, he accused the opposition Congress party of using students for politi-

cal purposes.

"The decisions made by the government should be discussed and any voice should be raised in a democratic manner. This government understands your concerns but some people use your shoulder for firing a gun," he said.

"I dare Congress, its friends, to publicly declare they are prepared to accord Indian citizenship to all Pakistanis."

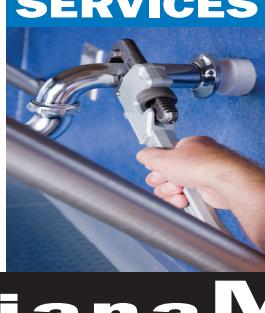
Congress party chief Sonia Gandhi met President Ram Nath Kovind as the head of an opposition delegation and asked that the citizenship law be withdrawn.

Talking to reporters, Gandhi said she fears "the situation may spread further."

"I think you all have seen that the Modi government seems to have no compassion when it comes to shutting down people's voices and implementing legislation," she said.



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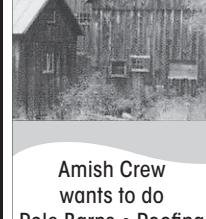
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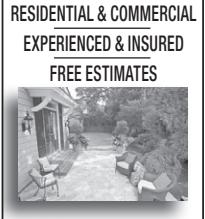
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Legals

LEGAL NOTICE December 2, 2019 THE CITY OF WABASH FIRE DEPARTMENT IS SEEKING APPLICATIONS FOR THE POSITION OF PART TIME CIVILIAN EMT OR PARAMEDIC Applications are being accepted until 4:00 pm, the 31st of December 2019, by the City of Wabash Fire Department for the position of part time civilian EMT or Paramedic. Applications, and job description, may be obtained at City Hall, 202 South Wabash Street, Wabash, Indiana and also can be downloaded on the City of Wabash Website <http://www.cityofwabash.com/city-information/employment-opportunities/>. Applications must be returned to Wabash Fire Department Station 1, 1000 N. Wabash St., Wabash In 46992, by 4:00 pm, the 31st day of December 2019. To be considered for appointment, applicants must: Have a valid high school diploma or General Equivalency Diploma (GED). Possess a current, valid driver's license at time of appointment. Be, at minimum, an EMT certified to practice in the State of Indiana. Pass a background check. Possess high moral character and commitment to service. A recent photograph must accompany all applications. Interviewing of applicants will be determined following a review of applications and background checks at the fire station located at 1000 North Wabash Street, Wabash, Indiana. THE CITY OF WABASH IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER HSPAXLP 12/4/12/18/2019

Legals

The Town of Lagro is applying for finance assistance with a USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Grant. We will be accepting bids for a new town truck. Bid Specs are available at the town hall 233 Buchanan St Lagro IN. Also, a public meeting will be held to discuss the grant and the bids received on January 13, 2020 @ 6pm Lagro Town Hall 230 Buchanan Street Lagro IN. HSPAXLP 12/18/2019

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